Media Release

Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

**Labor supports automatic pay rises for pollies**

26 March 2015

The Territory Opposition needs to come clean about its motives for supporting the continuation of automatic pay rises for politicians.

“The Government and Independent Member for Nelson Gerry Wood have voted in favour of politician’s pay decisions being referred to the Remuneration Tribunal,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“The current system ignores the vested interest politicians have in approving public service pay rises which eventually flow on to their own pay packets."

“We know this needs to change and have joined with Gerry Wood in amending legislation to this effect today.

“Instead of being automatically tied to public service pay increases, our changes mean pay decisions will be made by an independent umpire. Labor today opposed these eminently sensible changes.

“Delia Lawrie hasn’t been transparent about the reason she doesn’t support any change to the current pay system - it could negatively impact on the generous golden handshake she stands to receive on leaving politics.”

Ms Lawrie comes under a lucrative old entitlement scheme for members who were elected before 2004.

“This means that unlike her Labor colleagues, Delia Lawrie enjoys the luxury of knowing that she will receive a generous pension for life when she retires,” Mr Giles said.

“If Delia Lawrie really thinks the current system is so good and so fair, then she should volunteer to convert her benefits and give up her generous parliamentary pension, under the same scheme as Country Liberals MLAs and her Labor colleagues.
“The Government has done the only fair and equitable thing by changing the rules and putting pay decisions in the hands of an independent Remuneration Tribunal.

“The Tribunal is best placed to decide the right entitlements for politicians and statutory officers.

“Politicians shouldn’t be anywhere near deciding their own pay and Labor should be ashamed of voting against this bill.”

Media Contact: Danielle Parry 0413 081 801